

What is Claimed is:

1           1.    A method comprising:  
2                    in a wireless network, receiving a user request for  
3 a packet switched data service;  
4                    determining a provider for the service according to  
5 stored policies; and  
6                    determining a billing arrangement for the service  
7 according to the stored policies.

1           2.    The method of claim 1 in which the stored polices  
2 include how the user is to be billed and a basis for the  
3 billing.

1           3.    The method of claim 2 in which the stored polices  
2 include policy decisions that are entrusted to the provider.

1           4.    The method of claim 1 in which the stored polices  
2 include pre-arrangements between an operator of the network  
3 and the provider.

1           5.    The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to a user's time of connection.

1           6.    The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to a user's location.

1           7.    The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to a time of day.

1           8.    The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to a user class.

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1           9.    The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to a service class.

1           10.   The method of claim 1 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to network conditions.

1           11.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2               determining whether the user is authorized to use  
3 the service.

1           12.   The method of claim 11 in which determining  
2 comprises:

3               checking a user account for payment history.

1           13.   The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
2               billing the user upon completion of a user session;  
3 and  
4               reconciling billing between a network operator and  
5 the provider.

1           14.   The method of claim 13 in which the user session  
2 includes multiple transaction sessions.

1           15.   The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is a second generation wireless network.

1           16.   The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is a Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) network.

1           17.   The method of claim 16 in which the GSM network is  
2 General Packet Radio System (GPRS) enabled.

1 18. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is a Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) network.

1 19. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) network.

1 20. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS)  
3 network.

1 21. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is a TETRA network.

1 22. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is a Tetrapol network.

1 23. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is a DECT network.

1 24. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is an AMPS network.

1 25. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is a wireless local area network (WLAN).

1 26. The method of claim 1 in which the wireless network  
2 is a third generation wireless network.

1 27. A method of managing a General Packet Radio System  
2 (GPRS) enabled Global System for Mobile communication (GSM)  
3 network comprising:

4 receiving a user request for a packet switched data  
5 service;

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2010-02-02

6 determining a provider for the service according to  
7 stored policies; and

8 determining a billing arrangement for the service  
9 according to the stored policies.

1 28. The method of claim 27 in which the stored polices  
2 include how the user is to be billed and a basis for the  
3 billing.

1 29. The method of claim 28 in which the stored polices  
2 include policy decisions that are entrusted to the provider.

1 30. The method of claim 27 in which the stored polices  
2 include pre-arrangements between an operator of the network  
3 and the provider.

1 31. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to a user's time of connection.

1 32. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to a user's location.

1 33. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to a time of day.

1 34. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to a user class.

1 35. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to a service class.

1 36. The method of claim 27 in which the stored policies  
2 include matching a provider to network conditions.

37. The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
determining whether the user is authorized to use  
the service.

38. The method of claim 37 in which determining  
comprises:

checking a user account for payment history.

39. The method of claim 37 further comprising:  
billing the user upon completion of a user session;  
and  
reconciling billing between a network operator and  
the provider.

40. The method of claim 39 in which the user session  
includes multiple transaction sessions.

41. A method comprising:  
in a General Packet Radio System (GPRS) enabled Global  
System for Mobile Communication (GSM) network, collecting call  
data  
records (CDRs) from a Serving GPRS support node in the  
network;  
sending the CDRs to a charging gateway in the network;  
processing the CDRs for packet switched data into a  
single composite CDR stream in the charging gateway; and  
processing the single composite CDR stream in a billing  
system.

1        42. The method of claim 41 in which collecting further  
2 comprises:

3        collecting CDRs from a GPRS support node.

1        43. The method of claim 41 in which processing the CDRs  
2 further comprises:

3        augmenting the CDRs for packet switched data in a billing  
4 mediation node.

1        44. The method of claim 41 in which the single composite  
2 CDR stream represents a user session.

1        45. The method of claim 44 in which the user session  
2 includes a plurality of individual purchase sessions.

1        46. The method of claim 41 in which processing the  
2 single composite CDR stream comprises:

3            checking for records duplication;

4            correlating information; and

5            validating.

1        47. A method of providing a sponsored packet switch data  
2 service comprising:

3        in a GPRS enabled GSM network, receiving a request for a  
4 packet switched data service;

5        selecting a service provider for the packet switched data  
6 service;

7        connecting a session to the selected service provider;

8        metering the session;

generating billing information from the metering; and  
allocating the billing information to appropriate  
parties.

48. The method of claim 47 in which the request is from  
a user.

49. The method of claim 48 in which selecting further  
comprises:

authenticating access for the user to the service  
provider.

50. The method of claim 49 in which selecting further  
comprises:

determining whether the request is for the selected  
service provider.

51. The method of claim 50 in which selecting further  
comprises:

determining authorization for the user to the selected  
service.

52. The method of claim 48 metering comprises:  
monitoring the session between the user and the selected  
service provider.

53. The method of claim 47 in which an appropriate party  
is a network provider.

54. The method of claim 47 in which an appropriate party  
is the user.



1           55. The method of claim 47 in which an appropriate party  
2 is the selected service provider.

1           56. The method of claim 47 in which the appropriate  
2 parties are the user, a network provider and the selected  
3 service provider.

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